



OFFICE OF THE EQUINE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

October 26, 2021

Laboratory Testing for Bisphosphonate use in Thoroughbred Racehorses

Background. On March 28, 2019 the Office of the Equine Medical Director issued two Advisories regarding the use of bisphosphonates. The first advisory, [linked here](#), recommended that no bisphosphonate be administered to a racehorse that is less than four years old.

The second advisory, [linked here](#), warned that Thoroughbred horse owners, trainers and/or veterinarians had a responsibility to guard against an impermissible administration of a bisphosphonate to a racehorse under potential penalty.

Testing Implementation. As of October 26, 2021, the New York Drug Testing and Research Program will commence testing of biologic samples for the presence of bisphosphonates. Absent written Commission approval of a valid Therapeutic Use Exemption, detection of bisphosphonate compounds in biologic samples obtained from 2-year-old and 3-year-old Thoroughbred racehorses will be considered by the Commission to be evidence of a violation of 9 NYCRR § 4043.12(c) for which a fine of \$25,000 and loss of occupational license may be imposed.

Horses testing positive for bisphosphonates will not be permitted to race until such time as they are re-tested and found to be clear of bisphosphonate compounds.